

REMARKS

Applicant has updated the specifications ("II. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION ") as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watts (US Patent No. 4,278,550). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 1 and 5 include a limitation not disclosed in the Watts reference. In particular, Watts does not disclose an inwardly extending wall to direct the solids or liquids outwardly. This is sufficient to overcome the Section 102 rejection for these claims.

With respect to the Section 103 rejection of claim 2 through 4 and 6 through 8, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's position that the claim subject matter is obvious in view of Watts taken together with Lavigne. Applicant reiterates that Watts does not disclose an inwardly extending wall. Lavigne also fails to teach the use of an inwardly extending wall. Lavigne does not have a container housing enclosing the coil but rather drain pipes 6 are used to collect the denser fluid. The present invention contemplates the use of a housing (as in Watt's housing 13) but this requires preventing the re-entry of the denser fluid or solids, which is the function of the outwardly extending walls of claims 2 and 6. This problem is not even addressed by the cited references taken singly or in combination.

The use of baffle 9 to collect the denser fluid depends on gravity to direct (slide) it towards drain pipe 6, column 2, lines 32-39. The present

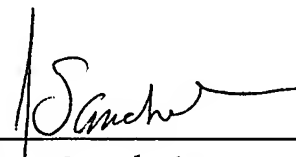
1 invention does not depend on gravity for the denser fluid or solids to exit
2 the coil.

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4 In fact, Lavigne relies on capillary forces when the denser fluid hits
5 the outer internal walls column 2, line 48-51. The claimed invention does
6 not rely on capillary forces. It provides an exit path and prevents the solids
7 or denser fluids from coming back inside the coil. The angles imbedded in
8 the other dependent claims have been found to be optimal and in
9 conjunction with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, also
10 constitute patentable subject matter.

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12 Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of his claims based
13 on the foregoing explanation.

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15 Applicant believes his application is now allowable and ready to be
16 passed to publication and requests an early favorable action.

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18 Respectfully submitted,
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